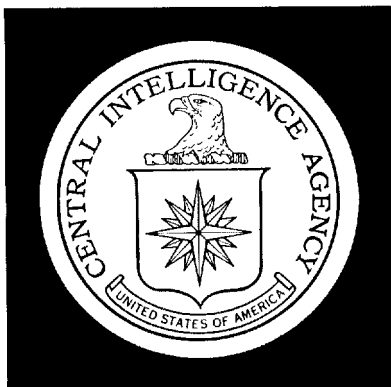


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Laos: The government evidently intends to request
Thai military assistance. (Page 3)

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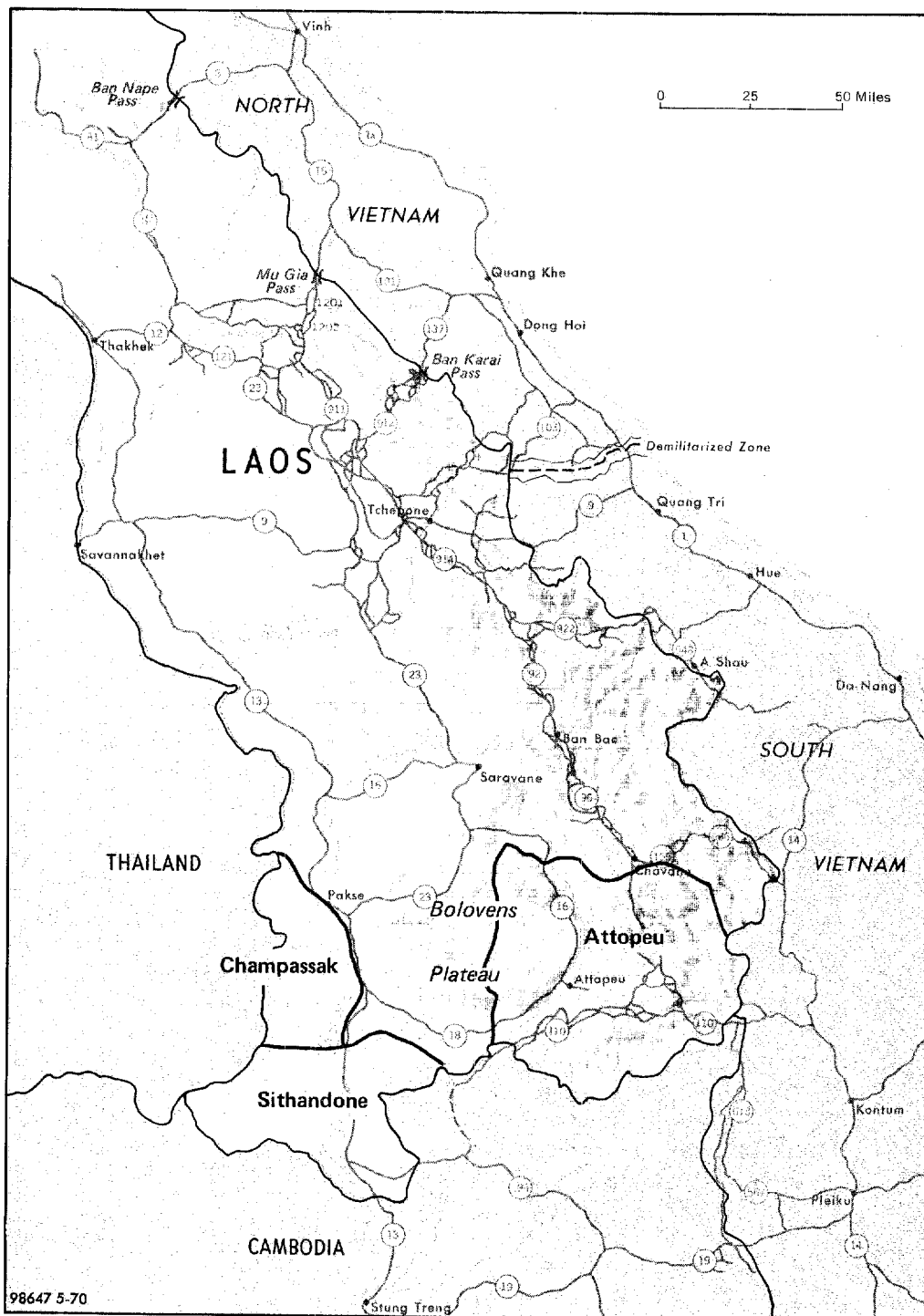
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Laos: The government may make a request for Thai military assistance in defending south Laos.

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A Laotian request for Thai troops would come at a time when Bangkok is preoccupied with the situation in Cambodia. The Thai Army is spread thin with commitments to domestic counterinsurgency operations and the Thai division now serving in South Vietnam. Thailand recently turned down a request from the Lon Nol government for a large contingent of combat personnel, though it may still provide Phnom Penh some assistance in training, logistics, and communications.

Although the Thai long have had some interest in taking a direct role in the defense of Laos, it is not likely that they will act without some guarantee of US logistic and political support.

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